

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 3 to replace the term “the changed illumination condition” with “the changed luminance level” so as to draw antecedent basis from precisely the same language used in the claim. This amendment neither adds new matter nor raises new issues. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Claims 3-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,140,643 (Izumi). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 3 recites taking an image of the illuminated electronic component by a component recognition camera, displaying the image taken by the component recognition camera when the electronic component is recognized to be improper based on a recognition processing performed on the image taken by the component recognition camera, and changing a luminance level of the illuminating based on the displayed image. The claim also states that the electronic component is mounted on a print board when the electronic component picked up by the suction nozzle is recognized to be proper based on another recognition processing performed under the changed luminance level.

In the claimed method, when the electronic component held by the suction nozzle is recognized to be improper, another image taking and image recognition are performed to decide whether the electronic component is indeed improper under a changed luminance level. The claimed second recognition of presumably improper electronic components eliminates discarding of proper electronic components recognized under improper illumination. See, for example, page 12, lines 2-7, of the specification.

The Examiner contends that the claimed second recognition of the electronic component under a changed luminance level is disclosed at column 7, lines 47-56, of Izumi. This passage of Izumi describes the mounting of Izumi’s electric component on a printed circuit board B after Izumi’s mounting apparatus decides that the electronic component should be mounted. See column 7, lines 52-56, of Izumi. Izumi states at column 7, lines 56-58, that “the above mounted state of the electronic part P is viewed and recognized by the recognizing camera 53 for

examination.” However, this image recognition of Izumi is performed only after the electronic component is mounted on the printed circuit board B. Izumi’s apparatus does not perform the second recognition prior to the mounting of the electronic component, as claimed.

Izumi describes four different embodiments. In the first embodiment, where a camera having a large depth of focus is used for image taking, when the electronic component P is found improper, it is transported to a collecting station. See, column 7, lines 7-9, of Izumi. Once Izumi’s electronic component P is found improper, Izumi’s apparatus does not perform any other recognition on that electronic component, contrary to the claim language. The second through fourth embodiments utilize different optical systems. However, Izumi says that “other constructions and operations of the part mounting apparatus are basically similar to those of the first embodiment, a detailed description thereof is omitted.” See column 8, lines 51-55, of Izumi. Thus, none of Izumi’s embodiments discloses the claimed second image recognition of the same electronic component under the changed luminance level when it is found improper at the first recognition.

The rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 USC 102(b) on Izumi should be withdrawn because Izumi does not teach or suggest the claimed second image recognition.

In paragraph 5 of the Action, the Examiner states:

This application contains claims 1, 2 and 7-10 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in the Response to Election requirement filed on 12/12/05. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.114) See MPEP § 821.01.

The statement of the first sentence is correct, except that the response filed December 12, 2005 was a Response to Restriction requirement. The statement of the second sentence is not relevant to this application because applicants elected claims 3-6 without traverse, as the Examiner pointed out properly. MPEP 821.01 is, however, directed to “After Election With Traverse.” Because applicants’ election of the claims was without traverse and the Examiner is authorized to cancel such nonelected claims when the application is otherwise ready for

allowance, applicants are not required to cancel the nonelected claims at this time. See MPEP 821.02.

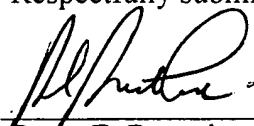
In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **606402014900**.

Respectfully submitted,

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